

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CARACA 08695 171259Z

53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 H-02 JUSE-00 SCS-03

SCA-01 PA-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FBIE-00

EB-07 COME-00 /057 W

----- 050534

R 162114Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3996

UNCLAS CARACAS 8695

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ENRG, VE

SUBJ: MEP DEPUTY CALLS ON PRESIDENT TO PUNISH OCCIDENTAL

REF: CARACAS 8644

1. MEP DEPUTY SIUBERTO MARTINEZ, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE WHICH INVESTIGATED ALLEGATIONS OF BRIBERY BY OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM CO., SPOKE OUT JULY 15 OBJECTING TO THE FINDING OF THE 12TH CRIMINAL COURT THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF BRIBERY OF GOV OFFICIALS BY US. CITIZENS JOHN ASKEW AND CHARLES HATFIELD AND FIVE OTHER ASSOCIATES. HE COMPLAINED THAT THE COURT MERELY CITED THE SEVEN INDIVIDUALS FOR CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT A CRIME (REFTEL.) CLAIMING THAT ACCODENTAL WAS SUFFICIENTLY IMPLICATED IN WORNG-DOING, MARTINEZ SAID, "ONLY THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT IS LACKING, THE DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, WHICH CAN BE NO OTHER THAN TO PENALIZE OCCIDENTAL." ALTHOUGH OCCIDENTAL HAS CONSISTENTLY DENIED HAVING BRIBED GOV OFFICIALS, MARTINEZ SAID, "IT IS SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR THAT PERSONS RECEIVED GIFTS FROM THE OIL COMPANY TO GAIN AN ADVANTAGE IN A CONTRACT WITH THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT."

2. REFERRING TO OCCIDENTAL'S BS.118 MILLION COMPENSATION CLAIM FOR ITS NATIONALIZED SERVICE CONTRACT WITH THE VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION, MARTINEZ SAID THAT "IT WOULD BE THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 08695 171259Z

HEIGHT OF ABSURDITY IN VIEW OF ALL THAT HAPPENED TO LET

OCCIDENTAL LEAVE VENEZUELA SCOT-FREE. ASKED IF THE COMPENSATION CLAIM SHOULD BE HANDLED BY A SPECIAL COURT, MARTINEZ SAID THAT, AS IN THE CASE OF OWENS-ILLINOIS, IT WAS PRESIDENT PEREZ'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PUNISH OCCIDENTAL. WITH REGARD TO THE DIFFERENCES IN THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY HIS CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE AND THE COURT, MARTINEZ SAID, "WHEN THE CHARGES WERE FIRST MADE THE PRESIDENT CONDUCTED A SECRET STUDY WITH MAGNIFICENT SUPPORT FROM THE POLICE AND BANKS, WHICH PRODUCED MORE DETAILED INFORMATION." HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE COURT SAW THINGS DIFFERENTLY FROM HIS COMMITTEE DUE TO THE "EVIDENT VULNERABILITY OF OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM."

3. ONE OF THE ACCUSED, ALBERTO FLORES ORTEGA, APPEARED AT A CARACAS POLICE STATION JULY 15 TO BE CHARGED. HE WAS PERMITTED TO GO FREE, HOWEVER, AS THE ARREST WARRANT HAD NOT YET ARRIVED IN THE HANDS OF THE POLICE, AS FAR AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE, NONE OF THE PERSONS CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY HAS BEEN ARRESTED. ASECIO

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BRIBERY, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976CARACA08695  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760276-0690  
**From:** CARACAS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760752/aaaabszo.tel  
**Line Count:** 79  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 CARACAS 8644  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** vogelfj  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 MAR 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <28 JAN 2005 by vogelfj>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEP DEPUTY CALLS ON PRESIDENT TO PUNISH OCCIDENTAL  
**TAGS:** PINT, ENRG, VE, OCCIDENTAL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006